

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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LCP Update Guide

Section 3. Water Quality Protection

The Coastal Act requires the protection and enhancement of marine and coastal water quality. In the last twenty-five years experts have identified nonpoint source (NPS) polluted runoff as the leading cause of water pollution both at the coast and inland. In response, the federal government mandated that states address the issue under both the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). In California, the Coastal Commission and the State Water Quality Control Board developed a joint nonpoint source pollution control program that provides a single unified, coordinated statewide approach to dealing with NPS pollution. A total of 28 state agencies are working collaboratively through the Interagency Coordinating Committee to implement the NPS Program Plan.

Review the principal Coastal Act policies concerning Marine Resources and Water Quality at Sections 30230 through 30236. These statutes can be found at:

http://www.coastal.ca.gov/coa_stact.pdf.

Given the widespread nature of nonpoint source pollution, managing land use on a watershed basis is critical. In the coastal zone, certified Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) are a key mechanism for achieving coastal water resource protection. In conjunction with the State's Stormwater and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Programs, which are administered by the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, LCPs provide an important planning and regulatory framework for addressing NPS water quality impacts. LCPs should be updated to include policies, ordinances, and programs that establish Best Management Practices (BMPs) for new development both during construction and for the life of a project. They should also incorporate appropriate aspects of local or regional stormwater permits, statewide nonpoint source pollution policies and TMDL requirements.

What should an updated water quality component include?

NOTE - Because of recent changes in Water Quality requirements, this section is still under construction.

In the meanwhile, this page is serving merely as a placeholder for the Water Quality section.